

attention of such a group?" He said he was going to tell them of the time he almost fell off Abraham Lincoln's nose!

I don't know how he did that day, but I opened my remarks by telling of my elevator hiatus with him and it never went over as well anywhere else in my life.

But who will rescue me today?

Once when I had a long lunch with comedian Jack Benny, I asked him how he had acknowledged some meaningless award given him. He said, "I was introduced, and knew I was going to be hooted anyway, so I looked sternly at the audience and said—once every one hundred years or so a great man is born. Now that I am here, make the most of it."

To let you know I have a hard time taking myself seriously. I have worn this red hat. The late Charles Kuralt did a CBS "Who's Who" sequence about me called *The Man in the Red Hat* in 1977, in which he called me the king of the press agents. Why? In 1941, I made and gave Sonja Henie a valentine made of ice, which is still in storage in Omaha, Nebraska, more than 60 years old, which he declared was the longest running, open-ended publicity stunt in the world. I have worn this red hat in 81 countries on every continent in the world.

On February 1, 1938, Robert L. Ripley carried me into more than 1,000 periodicals in his *Believe-it-or-Not* feature, and it's been like that ever since.

But this president's award is highly serious. A peering into the reality that has always been a part of my late wife, Vada, and myself . . . a constancy of interest in education and medical research. She was one of the original WAACS (forerunner of the women's army corps) . . . served two years as a teletype operator with HQ 12th Air Force across North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. We are pedestaled in the celebrities in uniform section of the great US Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, as a military couple. Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, bandleader Glenn Miller, and the fortieth President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, all surround and look down at us.

Vada, who fought Alzheimer's Disease 11 years, was still lucid when it happened and when I told her about it, she said "It's a good thing they can't talk as they're probably saying, 'There goes the neighborhood!'" When she died two years ago and was given full military honors at Fort McPherson National Cemetery, I told them there would be no eulogy as her story would always be unfinished . . . a work in progress, and had the bugler play "Reveille", the military wakeup call. There is a Vada Kinman Oldfield Alzheimer's research fund at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, which allies her inspiration with research expertise and is funded to address infinity. A thousand people a day go by her tribute on its wall.

As we met on the campus of the University of Nebraska and went the world around . . . none more than us know of the extraordinary difference a college education can make in the lives of two people. Global experience has shown us how brutal lack of knowledge can be . . . how awful is the dirt and disease in which so many lives are lived.

We are great believers in living memorialization, naming awards for friends . . . the admired . . . who inspire . . . motivate . . . piggy-back history on educational assistance. We campaign endlessly against those who are in foundations who see themselves only as collectors of money and have neither interest nor time for publicizing the impact on recipients and the goals they achieve because of help at the crossroads of their lives.

Oddly, the question Vada and I were, and are, constantly asked has been, "Why have you been so persistently interested in education when you have no kids of your own?"

Our answer has always been, "Who says we don't have any kids? You don't read our Christmas mail!" It comes from all over the world—some as much as twenty years after winning one of our scholarships. Those we knew as struggling students write to us about their successes and their achievements. On the Kinman-Oldfield family foundation stationary there is a photo of Vada giving the first scholarship to an electrical engineering student named Tony Kozlik. He was the son of a dairy worker and his mother was a seamstress and he had to drive 43 miles to and from school each day. The scholarship made possible a room on campus. He graduated 4th in a class of 448 and made the dean's list. He has been an employee of Honeywell ever since.

What we are talking about here is the greatest game in town. Give some thought to it personally. You will be startled about how good you feel about yourself And you, too, may come to enjoy your Christmas mail from kids you never had, but will never forget you for what you did. For my Vada and for me, many thanks for this President's Award!

It will not be un-employed, but on view at functions related to the Vada Kinman Oldfield and Col. Barney Oldfield Nebraska Dollars for Scholars Program we have launched in Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER OMEGA M.B. CHURCH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of the Greater Omega M. B. Church, located in the congressional district in Chicago, Illinois. The Greater Omega M.B. Church has served as a beacon of hope and strength for Illinois' First Congressional District since it was founded on March 14, 1982. With approximately 150 pioneering members, Greater Omega M.B. Church began its mission of service under the leadership of its late founding pastor, Rev. Edmond Blair, Jr.

Since then, the church and its congregation have endured a vibrant history. Under Rev. Messenger's leadership, the Greater Omega family made the final mortgage payment on its current church home located at 135 W. 79th Street. In addition, the church began broadcasting its services on the WBEE radio station.

On November 12, 2000, the Greater Omega family selected their current pastor, Rev. Melvin Reynolds. Under the helm of a new leader, the congregation is excited about the future of Greater Omega. According to church members, Rev. Reynolds, "loves and respects the people of Greater Omega, he loves and respects God's church, he sees the needs of the community, he tries to aid people in every walk of life and he loves God . . . Even more Rev. Reynolds has a vision of Greater Omega becoming a great church."

In the midst of changing pastors and relocating four times, the members of Greater Omega have remained steadfast in their mission and devotion to God and the Chicago community. The church has continuously enacted programs in the community such as, job ministries, drug rehabilitation ministries, and prison ministries. The church also has a

homeless food program and a mentoring program for the youth.

I commend Greater Omega M. B. Church for their continued high standards of worship and fellowship. Greater Omega's accomplishments are a true testament to their enduring faith and unwavering commitment to God. I am confident that the church will continue to grow and vigorously serve the community in the years to come.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today the House passed a bill introduced by Congressmen SENSENBRENNER and GEKAS. This bill, H.R. 1885, seeks to extend for four months provision 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. I was not able to be present for that vote, but I write today to state my support for reinstatement of 245(i).

245(i) allows certain undocumented immigrants to adjust their status while remaining in this country. Without that provision, they are forced to return home for a period of three to ten years before they can gain legal residency. This means, for example, that if someone from the Philippines who lacks legal status marries a U.S. citizen, the couple must either be separated for several years, or they must both move to the Philippines for the necessary time period. Either option is problematic.

In 1994, 245(i) was created to provide a third option—one which allowed the couple to remain together in the United States while the undocumented immigrant sought legal status. Unfortunately, that provision expired in 1998.

Last December, 245(i) was revived for a four-month period. It has become clear that there were problems with that time frame. Specifically, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was unable to process all of the applications by April 30, the date of expiration. In addition, immigrants were not able to comply with the complex paperwork requirements in that four month time frame.

I applaud the efforts of Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. GEKAS in seeking to reinstate 245(i) again. However, their efforts do not go far enough. We should not stop by providing another four-month window of opportunity. Instead, we should reenact 245(i) as a permanent provision of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. Punishing people who have legitimate claims to legal residency by forcing them to leave the country for several years is not an acceptable solution. We should provide them an avenue by which they can stay here while their application is pending.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend, Brian Kent, a young man